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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 003328

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/10/2002

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MA](#) [IT](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: ITALY NOT READY TO RECOGNIZE RAVALOMANANA AS  
PRESIDENT OF MADAGASCAR

REF: STATE 119427

CLASSIFIED BY: A/POL M/C GARY ROBBINS FOR REASONS  
1.5 (B) AND (D)

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE TO OUR JUNE 27 DEMARCHE ASKING  
CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT ITALY ACCEPT RAVALOMANANA AS PRESIDENT OF MADAGASCAR,  
THE GOI PROVIDED A NUANCED STATEMENT INDICATING THAT IT IS  
NOT YET CONVINCED THAT RAVALOMANANA CAN BE CONSIDERED THE  
CONSTITUTIONALLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT. THE GOI CITES THE FACT  
THAT NEITHER THE OAU NOR THE EU HAS YET RECOGNIZED HIM AS  
SUCH. AFTER A COMING EU WORKING GROUP MEETING, THE GOI WILL  
PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE UNION'S POSITION, TO WHICH  
ITS OWN WILL CONFORM. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (SBU) A/POLMINCOUNS TRANSMITTED REFTTEL DEMARCHE JUNE 27  
TO BRUNO CABRAS, THE MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL (ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY-EQUIVALENT) FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. ON

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JULY 2, MR. CABRAS PROVIDED THE GOI'S REPLY. INFORMAL  
TRANSLATION FOLLOWS.

[1](#)3. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT.  
FOREWORD

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS JUNE 27TH STATEMENT. WE  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO  
RECOGNIZE PRESIDENT RAVALOMANANA, AS STATED ALSO IN THE  
RECENT LETTER BY PRESIDENT BUSH.

AS A GENERAL RULE, ITALY DOES NOT FORMALLY RECOGNIZE  
GOVERNMENTS BUT RATHER STATES. MOREOVER, WE DO NOT CONSIDER  
THAT THE RECOGNITION STATEMENT ESTABLISHES INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL STATUS.

OAU POSITION

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WE TOOK NOTE OF THE STATEMENT RECENTLY ISSUED BY THE MAIN OAU  
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT BODY WHICH, AFTE MAKING REFERENCE TO THE  
AGREEMENTS REACHED DURIN THE TWO DAKAR MEETINGS, EMPHASIZES  
THE NEED TO ROCEED WITH NEW PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND TO  
DEELOP TEMPORARY INSTITUTIONS AGREEABLE TO BOTH PARTES. IN  
THIS STATEMENT, THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNTY AND TERRITORIAL  
INTEGRITY OF MADAGASCAR ARE RESSERTED, AS WELL AS THE  
PRINCIPLE OF NON-ACCEPCE OF ANY CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT MADE  
IN VIOLATIONOF THE CONSTITUTIONAL NORMS OF A COUNTRY.  
FINALL, THE STATEMENT ASSERTS THAT THE DECEMBER 16, 2001  
ELECTIONS IN MADAGASCAR DID NOT LEAD TO THE ESTABISHMENT OF  
A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT AND THAT NEITER RAVALOMANANA NOR  
RATSIRAKA IS ADMITTED AS THECOUNTRY,S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE  
OAU.

ITALIAN OSITION

AS A GENERAL RULE, WE GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO OAU  
RESOLUTIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES CONCERNING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.  
WE ALSO APPRECIATE THE NECESSITY OF PREVENTING A FURTHER  
DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION AND OF CONTAINING THE VIOLENCE  
SPREADING IN MADAGASCAR. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE  
PRINCIPLE OF CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY, WHICH IS THE BASIS OF  
CIVIL COEXISTENCE AND ONE OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE OAU  
(1999 OAU SUMMIT IN ALGIERS), SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED AS WELL.

AT THE MADAGASCAR NATIONAL DAY, WHICH TOOK PLACE JUNE 26,  
ITALY WAS REPRESENTED BY ITS HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL IN  
ANTANANARIVO, IN SPITE OF ITS DECISION NOT TO SEND A  
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

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EUROPEAN UNION POSITION

THE POSITION OF ITALY WILL COMPLY WITH THAT OF THE EUROPEAN  
UNION. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL HELP DRAFT THE UNION,S  
POSITION DURING THE FORTHCOMING AFRICAN WORKING GROUP  
MEETING, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 9 AND 10. AFTER THAT

MEETING, WE WILL INFORM YOU OF ANY EUROPEAN DECISION TAKEN.  
END TEXT.  
SEMBLER

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